



THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF PARMA

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Prot No. 83/2020 L

DECREE

The Closing of the Parish of Saint Nicholas, Cleveland, Ohio and the Disposition of its Assets and Liabilities

In the Name of the Lord. Amen.

After careful study and prayerful reflection, and having consulted the Presbyteral Council of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma for the Ruthenians (canon 280, §2 CCEO), I, Milan Lach, S.J., the Bishop of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma for the Ruthenians, hereby decree that Saint Nicholas Croatian Byzantine Catholic Parish, 3431 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio, be canonically closed.

The reasons for this action are:

- The number of St. Nicholas parishioners has decreased to a number which is insufficient to financially support the parish.
- The eparchial presbyterate is such that the assignment of a priest to service the parish on a regular liturgical schedule is not possible.
- The closure of the parish of Saint Nicholas will not leave current parishioners without reasonable access to a Byzantine Catholic church for the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and other sacraments.

The faithful of the parish of Saint Nicholas Parish, Cleveland, Ohio, are thus exhorted to join a parish of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma for the Ruthenians.

With due regard for the wishes of the founders and donors, after the settlement of the cost of closing the parish facilities, parish assets and liabilities revert to the superior juridic person, i.e., the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma for the Ruthenians (see canons 929, 930, CCEO). The assets of the parish are to be distributed to four established eparchial funds for 1) development of parishes; 2) promotion of vocations and seminary education; 3) the eparchial pension fund for priests; and 4) works of the apostolate.

I direct that care is to be taken to secure the property of the parish of Saint Nicholas Parish and all contents of the buildings on the property. Special care is to be taken in the protection of sacred objects within the church building. Precious articles such as vessels used in the Divine Liturgy, sacred images, relics, sacred furnishings, stained glass windows, altars, etc., are to be removed for use in other sacred edifices or to be stored in ecclesiastical custody. Sacramental registers are to be delivered to and maintained at the Chancery of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma for the Ruthenians. Other miscellaneous articles (rectory furniture, maintenance equipment, etc.) are to be disposed of according to the wishes of the Bishop of Parma.



This decree is effective Monday, 24 August 2020. I order this decree to be made public to all the faithful of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma for the Ruthenians through its publication on the eparchial website and in the eparchial publication, *Horizons*. The publication of the decree on the eparchial website is the legitimate notification.

Those who claim to have been aggrieved by this decree are herewith notified that, if they desire to file recourse against the decree, they are required for validity to submit a petition in the sense of canon 999 CCEO within ten (10) useful days from the legitimate notification of this decree.

Given at the Chancery of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma for the Ruthenians, on this 10th day of July, 2020.

The Most Reverend Milan, Lach, S.J.
Bishop of Parma



Reverend Gary D. Yanus, J.C.D.
Chancellor

Very Reverend Marek Visnovsky
Protosyncellus/Notary